

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 27, 2003: Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 4. Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

In section 1 of the Office Action, claim 5 was objected to based on the recitation of the size and/or density of the holes at the edge. Claim 5 depends from claim 1, which recites a perforated plate including holes of a size and/or density. Therefore, claim 5 should be sufficiently definite. Reconsideration and removal of the objection are respectfully requested.

In sections 3-5 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu et al., U.S. 5,338,622; Hsu et al., WO 94/13026; and Kitamura et al., JP 09007624A. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejections is not conceded.

However, in the interest of moving this case into condition for allowance, claim 4 has been canceled, and allowable subject matter from claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, and claims 2 and 6 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

In section 6 of the Office Action, claims 4 and 5 were noted as being allowable. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's assistance in the identification of allowable subject matter. As previously noted, subject matter from canceled claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 1. All claims should be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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JJG/RAK